

**Approved Minutes
Education Advisory Committee
September 15, 2014
City Hall**

Attendees

<u>Members</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Brian Bertges, <i>Dist 1</i>	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>
Carolyn Bernache, <i>Dist 4</i>	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>
Charlene Mahoney, <i>Dist 2</i>	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>
Cory Sanders, <i>Dist 2</i>	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>
Doris Ellis, <i>Dist 4</i>	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>
Maia Sheppard, <i>Dist 2</i>	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>
Melissa Day, <i>Dist 3</i>	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>
Peggy Wilson, <i>UMD</i>	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>

Also Present:

Peggy Higgins, City Liaison; Faheem Mahmooth, Recording Secretary

Call to order

Dr. Bernache called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. She introduced Dr. Maia Sheppard, the newest member of the Education Advisory Committee, to the rest of the committee. Dr. Sheppard lives in Berwyn, and is an assistant professor and the Chair of Pedagogy at George Washington University.

Agenda Items

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

After correcting two typographical errors, Mr. Bertges motioned to approve the March meeting minute. Minutes were unanimously approved.

2014-2015 Calendar Meetings

Dr. Bernache informed the committee that, as decided at the last meeting, this current September meeting will focus on planning for the principals' appreciation event.

Ms. Wilson informed the committee that there is no Fulbright contingent at the University of Maryland this year. Accordingly, the EAC will not host the Fulbright Reception that they had planned to host on November 17 this year.

Dr. Bernache continued with the calendar schedule, informing the EAC that the October meeting will focus on the EAC grants.

The meeting on December 15, 2014 will focus on planning for the up-coming Preschool Fair.

Ms. Day informed the committee that, as per her communications with the Community Center, January 31, 2015 is available for the EAC for their preschool fair. February 7, 2015 is also open and may serve as a backup snow date. Ms. Higgins suggested contacting Ms. Courtney Lancaster, the Director of the center, to confirm that the Preschool Fair will be on the center's schedule and that they will not be sharing the facilities with other events on that day.

Co-chair Position

Dr. Bernache informed the committee that the structure of the committee calls for a Co-chair position which is currently unfilled. Mr. Sanders volunteered to take on the responsibilities of that position. Ms. Wilson nominated Ms. Sanders. The nomination was seconded by Ms. Ellis, before being unanimously confirmed by the rest of the EAC.

EAC Grant Application Dates

Ms. Higgins said that since the EAC wants to review the grant application at the October 20, 2014 meeting, she can have her office deliver the applications to the EAC members by October 15, 2014.

For Dr. Sheppard's benefit, Ms. Higgins explained that the four schools in the neighborhood that serve the largest number of students of the City of College Park are given an opportunity to obtain a non-competitive grant of up to \$7,500.00. Other schools that serve at least 14 students from College Park may apply for a non-competitive grant of up to \$2,500.00. The EAC members review the grant applications before providing recommendation to the City Council. She suggested reviewing the grants by November so that the schools can be awarded the funds by January.

Ms. Higgins will require the applications due by Monday, October 13, 2014. The applications will then be sent it to the EAC members no later than October 15, 2014 so that the committee members will have time to review the application before the October 20, 2014 meeting.

As per Ms. Wilson's request, Ms. Higgins will send the latest application instructions to the committee members for their review. Ms. Higgins stated that she would need to be informed of any potential changes by September 18, 2014.

In response to Dr. Sheppard's question, Ms. Higgins responded that the grants will be discussed at a City Council Work Session before proceeding on to a voting session, both of which will be public

Principals' Appreciation

After discussion, the committee decided to host local principals at the Parish House on November 17, 2014 from 4:30 pm to 6:00 pm for a short reception in appreciation of their commitment to improving education. Ms. Wilson will draft the invitation for Ms. Higgins's office to send out to the principals. This will be in lieu of November's meeting.

Micro Grants

Ms. Wilson said that she was approached by a College Park resident who suggested using the City's new micro grants program for educational related activities. While the committee discussed the grant idea, the committee did not decide to pursue this grant as a committee at this time.

Dr. Bernache suggested organizing a program for foreign exchange students.

Dr. Sheppard suggested that the committee should look into hosting a program for parents looking for information on kindergarten options in the city. Dr. Bernache suggested hosting an event inviting someone from the county to speak about the options for parents concerning kindergarten. On October 14, 2014 at Greenbelt Middle School Ms Higgins, as a member of the Prince George's County School Board, will be hosting a meeting featuring various educational staff officials. The event will help to address concerns and questions parent might have about the county education programs.

Mr. Bertges suggested informing the Center for Children at the University of Maryland about the various programs that the city does that are educational related. The Center for Children is a resource guide to help parents who attend the university. Ms. Higgins said that she can ask the city's other department heads if they already provide such information to the Center for Children.

Ms. Wilson inquired about the possibility about working on another brochure akin to the one the committee did before on helping with homework.

Mr. Bertges inquired about the possibility of setting up a list serve for college park parents.

Next Meeting and Adjournment

As per Dr. Bernache's suggestion, Ms. Higgins will send out the draft meeting minutes prior to the next meeting in October.

The committee adjourned by consensus

Meeting minutes prepared by Faheem A. Mahmooth